

THE "CLIPPED WINGS"

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AIR DISPATCH ASSN. OF AUSTRALIA



December 2014 Edition

PRESIDENTS REPORT



Hello Everyone,

It's so hard to believe Christmas is only around the corner. Since our last Clipped Wings, quite a few things have happened and we are looking at getting events and outings planned for next year. At this stage 2015 is shaping up to be a big year for the association. Apart from celebrating 100 years of ANZAC, we have dinners and get togethers, barbeques and excursions planned. I promise we will not inundate you with events but we should have something to do every few months and the success of these events and the frequency shall depend on the members.

Since our last edition,

September

We began to address the problems with the website. The committee has been aware of some login problems and other issues and this should be sorted in the New Year.



October

The International Reunion in Charleston, South Carolina in the US and although numbers were down compared with other reunions we enjoyed ourselves and everybody had a good time. One of the events during the reunion was Lt Gen John Cussick (Retd US Army) and his wife Patsy attended and were impressed with the comraderie of the four participating countries (Australia, New Zealand, USA and UK) and were adamant they would be attending our International Reunion in Sydney in 2016. While our detachment was overseas, the Veterans Health week get togethers occurred in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Thanks to everyone who contributed to these functions and I know a number of the old and bold caught up and enjoyed themselves at Lou and Sue's place in Adelaide (there is an article in this edition)

November

Our last "Red On – Standby" for the year was held at O'Donahues Pub at Emu Plains. Another brilliant night thanks to Fozzie and welcome to Linda Murphy and family. The day after, there was a plaque laying ceremony and general meeting at Windsor RSL. The plaque was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Selective Conscripton (National Service) and was un veiled by Ms Louise Marcus (Federal Member for Macquarie) and Major Bronwyn Thomas (Officer Commanding, 176 Air Dispatch Sqn),

At the meeting, we also caught up with Ned and Claire Miller, Vince Head, Graham Papworth, and Wanda Deacon. It was good to see these faces for the meeting and the commemoration service.

Also at the end of November, the Squadron had their end of year function. Chris Gill and Denis McCann attended and both enjoyed themselves. The day after, there was a gathering of ex 177 Air Dispatch Sqn members at Windsor RSL. Again many ex CMF, Reserve and Regular Air Dispatchers attended. Notable attendees were John Barnes, Peter Russell, Peter Cassar, Ozzie Osborne, Ned Miller, Jim Christie, Vince Head, Ian Baines and Barry Mulford, to mention a few (if I've left your name out, it's not on purpose).

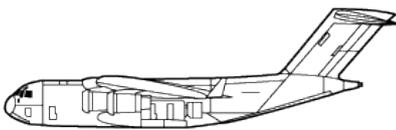
Finally, we now have an advocate for DVA who is well versed in the workings of DVA and the Veterans Review Board and it gives me great pleasure to welcome Ms Leonie Moorhead as the Association Advocate and an ADAA Honorary member. Leonie's contact details will be made available in the contact list.

And so, as we head towards the end of the year, I would like to thank our patron, the committee, the state representatives, Jim Piet, Brenda Baber and Leonie Moorhead for their service and dedication to the association. We as an association could not function without these people and you, the members.

Next year, I hope we can fill the page with reports, photos and stories of events and functions that have been arranged for our members. If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the Clipped Wings or organise a function let us know, we will give support and assistance where we can.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year from Joyce and myself.

Cheers
Nicko



New Innovations

1-Time Use Guided Precision Aerial Delivery System (1TFF – 1 Time FireFly)



A new innovation in the Aerial Delivery box of tricks is the One-Time Use Guided Precision Aerial Delivery System being tested in the US. This System can be dropped from an altitude of 17,500 feet Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL) and capable of carrying a payload of up to 2,200lbs (a fully loaded A22). The system can glide for up to 25 kilometres and will land within 150 metres of the target.

The specifications are:

Payload capacity			
Minimum	750lb	(340kg)	
Maximum	2,200lb	(998kg)	
Canopy weight	72lb	(32.7kg)	more lighter than a G12D
Guidance Unit	27lb	(12.2kg)	



RAAF C130 Undertakes Second Iraq Airdrop

Contribution by Chris Felkin from Queensland



Taken from the Australian Aviation Magazine October 2014 edition and it can be viewed on their website by clicking here [C130 Air Drop in Iraq](#)

The end of a long road

Contribution from Tony Dowd New South Wales

There comes a time in one's life when you realise it is time to "back off" and slow down. So it is with me having just turned 80 years of age (June) I decided it was about time I gave away interstate driving. I have been driving heavy vehicles for on and off for almost 60 years. I started before joining the Army, then with several Transport companies(1 Coy, Eastern Command Troops Country CMF units etc)and after leaving the Army with various Transport companies(Brambles Bulk Haulage Gas Tankers for some 10 years, Scrap metal Recycling company to name a couple. When I retired at 65 I had a 5 year break, Gwen & I did some travelling to UK and around parts of Aust. But once that finished I found that I just could not "sit around doing nothing" so I answered an ad for casual drivers delivering new and used vehicles to all part of Australia. As I was 70 at the time I didn't think I had much hope of getting a job, but the company (Vehicle Relocations) was mostly made up of retired drivers (55 and over) looking to do some part time driving, and for me so started 10 years of delivering vehicles to all states of Aust. I enjoyed every trip that I did. Sydney-Darwin, Melbourne-Perth, Sydney-Perth, Perth – Brisbane, Townsville-Melbourne, many more and too many to mention

I asked my Boss to see if he could organise it so that I could be driving on an Interstate trip each year on my birthday, and on most years I achieved that aim. My last Trip was in May this Year I took a bus from Sydney to Adelaide and brought a truck back form Ade to Sydney. I might add not every trip was a "piece of cake" some of the second hand trucks left a lot to be desired, with breakdowns (elect, fuel, tyre punctures etc) in which most cases had to be fixed enough by the driver to get going to the next town, and of course these mishaps always seemed to happen in the middle of night and in the middle of nowhere. But I enjoyed every minute of it. The company I worked for sold out to another vehicle relocating company & I decided it did not want to start again. I realised it was the right time for me to "hand in the keys". So I did, during the time I worked for this company I travelled some 500000 kilometres. (On interstate trips) To me I feel I have been extremely fortunate to be able to do this driving for so long, as I'm lucky enough to enjoy good health and enjoy what I was doing. But all good things come to an end and my time had arrived.

Kind regards and good health to all. Tony Dowd



Adelaide to Sydney



Sydney to Adelaide

The Island or bust

Contribution by Shane Mitchell from Western Australia

I guess it's fair to say that my trip to Phillip Island really began about 26 years ago when I first got posted to 176 AD SQN. I had been seconded by one of the better known clowns of that time by the name of Bobby Burgsma who took me under his wing and introduced me to some of the other larrikins such as Danny (White) Mitch, Greg (Vinny) Vinton and Cliff (Willy) Williams all of who rode bikes and there my training began....



After my training (motor cycle induction) the lads and I would always be out and about on the weekends in the Blue Mountains up to Leura at the Alex or taking quick trips up Old Bathurst Road and down Mitchell's pass time and time again. Incidentally, White Mitch and I (Black Mitch) both crashed, at different times, on t



Anyway the years go by and I started riding at Eastern Creek, a world class GP circuit at the time. I was out there on one particular day and Mark Easthope (Easty) who was the circuit supervisor, came up to me in the pit's and says " I just want to let you know, there's a fella from team Kawasaki Australia in the control tower looking at you and two other guys to join the team, but don't be nervous just do your best" my initial thought was "Good on ya mate, why the F&*K would you tell me that?" Needless to say I didn't get picked up

The years roll on and riding at Eastern Creek, Oran Park and Hidden valley in Darwin, just wasn't enough so I wanted to go bigger, Phillip Island was it.

Earlier this year a couple of good mates of mine from Bligh park, Austin "Powers" Webster and Matt "The Clown" Murphy convinced me to book three days of riding at the one circuit I've always wanted to ride, "Phillip Island". I bit the bullet and booked the days. Then came time to plan the trip, check over the bike, the trailer, and the car. I knew there was going to be a get together with the old boys so I planned to head to Sydney after the Island.

The time had come for the "Epic journey" to begin. I left my home in Perth on a Saturday morning and made my way toward East. I got as far as Coolgardie, about 500 odd kms from Perth, got out kicked the tires, got a drink, and off I went. I was cruising along checking the mirrors as you do and I see smoke billowing from the back of the trailer so I pullover. I check the trailer and to my surprise, collapsed wheel bearing's..."Not happy Jan!"



I call the tow from Kalgoorlie (Kal), he arrives four hours later, and we head back to Kal. Needless to say it was a weekend so I was stuck in Kal for four days waiting on parts and repair. So after four days and \$1700, Wednesday arrives and I'm off, on my way to visit Steve Little and Rod Ellis in Adelaide. I got to spend a day in Adelaide visiting a couple of people then made my way closer to Melbourne via Stawell to visit Chris Folkes and the family for one night. By this stage it was a full week from the day I left home but I was there. I left Stawell and made my way to The Island on the Sunday, to drop off the trailer and the Bike at the circuit, which was pre-arranged.

I arrived at the circuit and was told I wasn't allowed in because the security guy didn't know I was coming. After much discussion and reading the confirmatory email I was allowed in and dropped of the bike, set the pit garage up and went to the hotel.

Day one was an amazing day, learning a new track and how fast it was and meeting new people. Day two was much the same except I started to have a few problems with third gear, which made it difficult to go real hard out of corners. By the end of day two approx 280 kph down the main straight, 90 kph around Siberia and 140 kph into the start of Lukey heights seemed to be the norm. Day three was a great day but was hampered by the fact that by now, third gear wouldn't even hold so I had to try and skip it all together just to get anywhere. This gave some unforeseen opportunity to Matt who took advantage of the situation as often as possible to pass me at any stage, even going to the point to call his wife telling her "I over took Shane" which unfortunately for him was short lived because Austin yelled at the phone "Shane doesn't have third gear", poor Matt!



The time comes to leave The Island and head to Sydney to catch up with a few of the old boys. I arrive in Sydney and get to catch up with Zed and visit his family and Dicky and Lauren Jaehne before I went to "Red On - Standby" at O'Donahue's at Emu Plains. It was an awesome night, so many old faces, literally ha ha sorry fellas! It was great catching up with Rusty Towers who as usual was great to talk to. Nick Nicolai who as usual just pulled the piss from everyone, mainly me! Jim Prien who had lost more hair than I remembered last, Mick Haumu and Geoff Harris who have not changed at all thank god, and obviously so many more of the fellas I hadn't seen in an age. Thanks Foz, for organising the boys and the night it was great, "Rev the diddly Swenson out of it" lol.

I guess on another note note, three of the most wonderful people who I haven't seen for a long time were there in place of Ian Murphy, a great mate who'd passed away some years ago. Thank you Lynda, Steve, and Alesha for being with us all that night. It was a pleasure to see you again, I miss being able to walk across the street to have a beer and be abused but Smurf "What do you want Nigga?" to put it politely, lol.



After spending a few days back in Windsor it was time to head back to Perth. Thankfully there were no real dramas to speak of on the way home. I left Windsor at about five in the morning and made my way to Pt Augusta via Wagga Wagga and Adelaide. Quick stop for fuel then off to Kimba S.A (Half way between Sydney and Perth) arriving at eleven thirty that night, a pretty good effort I must say.

After not getting much sleep I leave Kimba at three thirty a.m. and a couple of fuel stops later I arrive back in Perth that night at eleven thirty, I pull up out the front on the lawn, lock the car, walk inside the house and go straight to bed "Home sweet home..."

Although there were a few little dramas along the way, the three weeks and ten thousand kms it had taken to complete the trip was well worth it. I managed to see a great bunch of old mates and although I'd done the drive a few times I had managed to reacquaint myself with the beautiful country we call home.

If any of you are in Perth don't hesitate to give a call.

Shane Mitchell
"From above"



South Australian Gathering

Contribution by Lou Heidenreich South Australia

Although our attendance was small it was an excellent day for all concerned. I catered for 15 in the hope that some would turn up and then a couple pulled out at the last moment. Interestingly there were quite a number of people who served as AD's living in SA that I didn't know about, their names came to light during our conversations in the afternoon. Even though we weren't part of the Healthy Heart Programme we did provide a good nutritious balanced meal. Hope that all of the other gatherings were as successful and enjoyable as ours. Cheers Lou



From left to right are: Dave Goad, Lou Heidenreich, Peter Jolly, John Thurgood and Brian Holecek.



From left to right are: Sue Heidenreich, Ivy Goad, Dave Goad, Meredith Jolly, Peter Jolly, John Thurgood, Kay Thurgood and Brian Holecek.

VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK 2014

The days activities included guests from the Veterans community, local MP Hon Steven BRIFFA, President Eltham Chamber of Commerce, President/Secretary Local Sporting Clubs, Family and Friends. Special thanks to Geoff Cutts and family for their support.



Free Family event for all the above was held at PRACTICALLY GREEN FESTIVAL that included lifestyle exhibitions, Eltham Mudbrick Tour and Live Music.

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VIC/TAS State Rep
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graham@live.com.au

The Air Dispatch Association of Australia Banner

The inset to the right, is a photograph of one of our very first "Clipped Wings". The first editions were hand written with the occasional cartoon. This particular edition mentions marching behind our banner, donated by Logan McIntosh.



ANZAC Day, 2015, marks the 21st Birth-day of the first time we marched under that banner. We have a few banners between that one and our current one but I still remember proudly marching down George Street in Sydney as part of the banner party. I also have vivid memories of a young soldier struggling against the wind blowing down George Street. Never the less, we finished the march, without any mishaps.

I have spoken with Logan and Chris Gill today and we are endeavouring to have both the original banner (which had been slightly modified and pictured above) and our current banner on parade on ANZAC Day 2015, in Sydney.

Those of you wishing to join us for our 21st Birthday please contact either myself or our secretary, Chris Gill to give us an idea of numbers.

Cheers
Nicko



THE BANNER

QUESTIONS IN THE PAST, & NO DOUBT IN THE FUTURE SURROUND "THE BANNER" MANUFACTURED, PAID FOR, & PRESENTED TO / FOR PARADES & OR SPECIAL OCCASIONS BY NONE OTHER THAN THE INIMITABLE LOGAN GEORGE MACINTOSH KNOWN ALSO AS "MAC".

ONE QUESTION IN PARTICULAR IS "WHY 66-68" REFERRING TO THE LENGTH OF TIME 176 SERVED IN THE NAM. THE ANSWER TO THAT AS I SEE IT (CORRECT ME IF I AM WRONG) WAS THAT 176 AD COY WAS ONLY A DETACHMENT UNDER COMMAND OF 1 TPY COY DURING 66-68 PRIOR TO BEING A UNIT IN ITS OWN RIGHT I.E 176 AD COY. THIS DOES NOT, & I HOPE, WILL NOT DETRACT FROM PAST & PRESENT "MEMBERS MARCHING BEHIND" THE BANNER", AFTER ALL, THE REUNION IN SYDNEY 94 STARTED OUT AS A GET TOGETHER OF THE MEN FROM "DON WOOLMER & HIS FOURTH TWO THIEVES".

AS IT WILL BE THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF 176 AD IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A FEW MORE MEMBERS "ON BOARD" THAN DON WOOLMER HAD WHEN WE MEET IN MELBOURNE 1996.

Secretaries Report for December 2014

Busy year!!!!!!

I drove (still driving) the Hon. Treasurer bonkers.

Mentioning the Treas., membership time he tells me.

Denis McCann & I attended the final Basic AD/Crew Comd. course for 2014. Denis will report on that.

Apart from the Presentation of the Governor General's Banner to AMTDU (Damm good design), visited 176 AD Sqn a few times and their Christmas function. Also went to grant (Fozzy) Fosters do at emu plains. So much for the Hon Sec's social activities. The Assn also attended a CMF/ARes AD'S gathering in Windsor, organized by John Barnes and a few of his cronies. It was a fruitful event with a few of them asking to join the ADAA.

On 9th November, a marble plaque commemorating the 50th Anniversary of "Selective Conscription" (National Service), was unveiled by the Hon. Louise Markus, MP, Federal Member for Macquarie & Major Bronwyn Thomas, RACT, Officer Commanding 176 Air Dispatch Squadron.

The unveiling was attended by the Hawkesbury Sub-Branch of the National Servicemen's Association, who interrupted their monthly meeting to be there. Pics somewhere in this issue.

A general Meeting was held after the unveiling. Minutes being posted on the ADAA website

A recreational bus trip to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra ???

Still looking for people in each state to attend Pension/Welfare courses. These courses give you the knowledge to direct veterans & their dependants to the right people to help (that is if you do not want to do the paperwork yourself). We now have an Advocate on board to help. You do not have to be a veteran to attend so if you know of anyone who might be interested, talk to them and they can contact me.

The same goes for First Aid training. We have DVA funding for attendance at these courses. Again not restricted to ADAA members. Good opportunity for spouses/carers or dependants to gain free first aid knowledge. Out of pocket expenses will be covered for both training programmes. If we have no takers for these two programmes, we will have to return unexpended funds to DVA and it will be harder to obtain them next year.

The ADAA now have capital assets exceeding \$4,000 thanks to the B.E.S.T. Grants programme.

Cheers, and again all the best for a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Gilly



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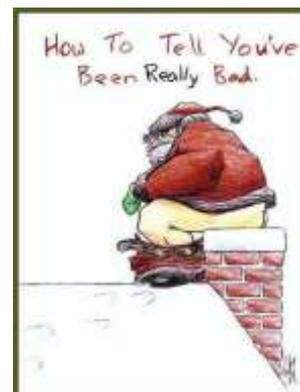
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“Par Oneri De Caelo”

MEMBERS DETAILS UPDATE

Recent attempts to advise members of events & activities has identified some member details being out of date or incorrect. To keep you informed, the following updated information is requested.

Name:

Postal address:

Phone number:

Mobile if applicable:

Email if applicable:

Your preferred method of contact:

Phone: YES/NO

Mobile: YES/NO

Email: YES/NO

Your response to this notice can be by post or our preference, by email.

If you have contact with AD types that might not be members of the ADAA, please ask them to contact the secretary.

Chris Gill
Hon. Secretary

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Notices

To receive the newsletter via email please provide your email address to piety@bigpond.com

We would like to make the Newsletter interesting so please help us expand with YOUR input. Please submit your contribution in Microsoft Word with basic format

